back, spotted with well-marked yellowish shaft-spots, which are short and triangular on the head, and long and thin on the neck; the shaft-spots on the head are slightly margined with blackish: beneath earthy brown, densely spotted with elongated ochraceous shaft-spots, which are distinctly edged with blackish; flanks and crissum less marked; chin and middle of throat pale ochraceous, unspotted; bill very short, slightly incurved, pale brown; feet dark. Whole length 8·0, wing 4·0, tail 3·8, bill from gape 0·9.

Hab. S.E. Brazil.

Mus. S.-G.

The single specimen of this species, which was purchased of a dealer, but is of apparently "Brazilian" make, is not unlike some examples of *P. affinis*, but is at once distinguishable by its shortened and straightened bill.

In revising the Dendrocolaptidæ for the 15th volume of the British Museum Catalogue I have found it necessary to use two new generic forms. These are:—

(1) Limnophyes (λίμνη *palus* et φύω *gigno*), for *Limnornis curvirostris*, Gould (Zool. Voy. Beagle, iii. p. 81), a form allied to *Limnornis*, but differing in its curved bill; and

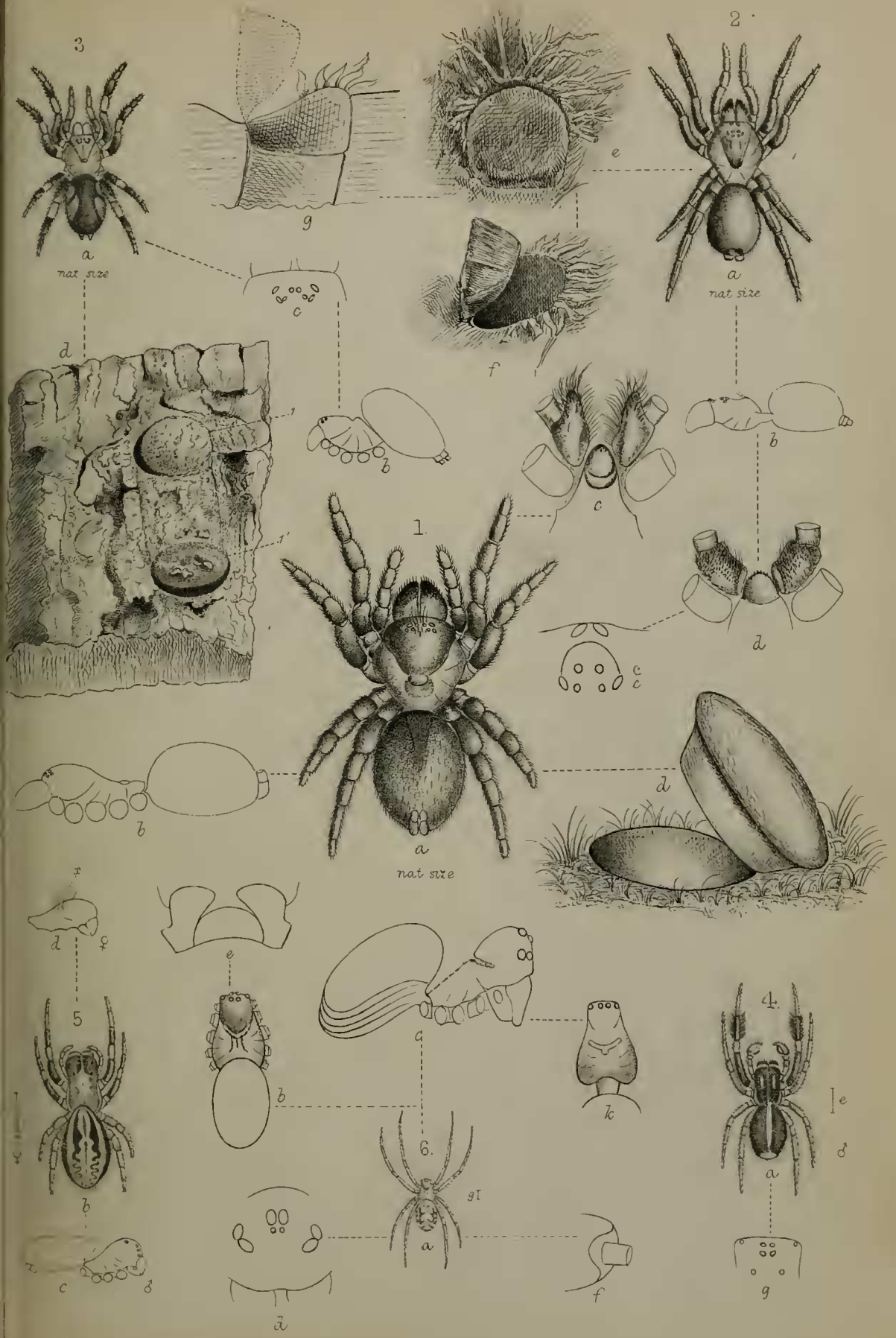
(2) Hylexetastes (ὕλη *silva* et ἐξεταστὴς *investigator*), for *Dendrocolaptes perroti*, Lafr., which is allied to *Dendrexetastes*, but differs in its much stronger and stouter bill.

3. On some new Species and a new Genus of Araneidea. By the Rev. O. P. Cambridge, M.A., F.R.S., &c.

[Received November 30, 1888.]

(Plate II.)

The Spiders described in the present paper are from the widely separated localities of Burmah, South Africa, and Australia. The principal interest attaching to two of them (from South Africa) arises from their being represented, at this moment, by examples living in this Society's Insect-house. One of these two spiders, *Pachylomerus natalensis*, has been there for the last twelve months along with its fine trapdoor nest. The other, *Stegodyphus gregarius*, has only lately been received there, and is also interesting as being the first, I believe, of this group (*Eresidæ*) whose habits are known to be gregarious: the nest is of large size, and contains from 100 to 150 inhabitants of both sexes and various ages. Some few of these had died on the passage from Durban, and from these the subjoined description has been prepared. Another of the spiders described is interesting as being the second known species of Tree Trapdoor Spiders. The first species was described and figured by myself several years ago (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. xvi. (4) p. 319, pl. x.) from Uitenhage, South Africa, under the name of *Moggridgea dyeri*. Subsequently in 1887 a note was communicated to



NEW SPIDERS

P Cambridge del
Carter sc
Mintern Bros imp

this Society by Dr. Günther (P. Z. S. 1887, p. 40), from the Rev. Nendick Abraham, of Grahamstown, on what Dr. Günther supposed to be the same species as that described from Uitenhage. Wishing, however, to be assured of this, I wrote to Mr. Abraham asking him to send me, if he could procure them, examples of the species to which his note referred. This Mr. A. has very kindly and promptly done, sending me several nests with the spiders belonging to them. Among these I have found two examples of *Moggridgea dyeri*, and two others of quite a different, though allied species, to which I have given below the name of *M. abrahami* after its very painstaking discoverer. One of the spiders described here is remarkable, not only for its minuteness, being no more than half a line in length, but for the peculiar character of its cephalothorax, in which the ordinary indented lines showing the junction of the caput and thorax are replaced by two deep oblique converging fissures, necessitating, along with other characters, the formation of a new genus in the family *Theridiidæ* for its reception. This specimen has been in my possession for many years past, but had until lately been overlooked owing to its having been accidentally concealed among the hairs on one of the legs of a large spider received in 1864 from the Swan River.

Other particulars respecting the spiders described below will be found appended to their scientific description. With that of one of them I have incorporated a long, but very interesting account of the nest of the spider *Idiops colletti*, which was sent to me from Burmah by General Collett, through the kindness of Mr. George King, of the Botanic Gardens, Calcutta. This is, so far as I know, the first detailed account of the nest of a spider of this group, though I had myself many years ago found one species of it near Beirût in a trapdoor nest, which was, however, unfortunately destroyed on the way home, before any note could be taken of its nature and peculiarities.

Order ARANEIDEA.

Family THERAPHOSIDÆ.

Genus PACHYLOMERUS, Auss.

PACHYLOMERUS NATALENSIS, sp. n. (Plate II. fig. 1.)

Adult female. Length 1 inch 5 lines, length of cephalothorax 6½ lines, breadth at the widest part 6 lines.

Cephalothorax a little longer than broad, the fore extremity wider than the posterior, the widest part is across the middle. The caput is large, rounded and convex above, the occiput sloping in a gradual curve to the thoracic indentation, which is large, deep, semilunar, with the convexity of its curve directed backwards, and situated exactly one third of the length from the hinder extremity of the cephalothorax. The cephalothorax is smooth, glossy, and of a rich reddish chocolate-brown colour, rather paler at the hinder extremity and in the ocular region.

The *eyes* are rather small and form a transverse oblong area, the

height of the clypeus being half that of the facial space. The fore central pair of eyes are separated from each other by 2 diameters' interval and from the fore laterals by $1\frac{1}{2}$ diameters; the latter are largest of the eight, and (looked at from in front) form a curved row whose convexity is directed upwards; the hind lateral and hind central eye, on each side, are contiguous to each other in a transverse line, the four forming the ends of a very nearly straight row, rather longer than anterior row, the hind centrals being the largest. The centre of the ocular area, and reaching to a little way behind it, is furnished with strong bristly hairs directed forward.

The *legs* are short, very strong, 4, 1, 3, 2, similar in colour to the cephalothorax, furnished with hairs, and numerous short strong spines near the sides of the tarsi and metatarsi of the first and second pairs; these spines, however, are very difficult to see, owing to the density of the hairs on those parts; there is, however, no scopula, and the superior tarsal claws are (apparently) devoid of denticulations.

The *falces* are massive and about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the length of the caput. They are similar in colour to the cephalothorax and densely clothed with short hairs excepting a large patch near the base in front, and near their extremities are numerous short tooth-like spines.

The *palpi* are similar in colour and armature to the anterior legs.

The *maxillæ* are strong, subcylindrical, with a strong prominent conical point at the extremity on the inner side; at the base on the inner side of each maxilla is a short curved row of several dentiform spines similar to some others at the apex of the labium.

The *labium* is small, about equal in length and breadth at the base, which is transversely curved, the convexity of the curve directed backwards; the base fits into a corresponding hollow in the sternum on a kind of inverted subconical base marked in the sternum by a distinct indentation. It is roundish-pointed at the apex, where there are five short dentiform black spines.

The *sternum* is large, triangular, a little broader at the base or hinder end than long; the base, however, being rather angulate, and not rectilinear. It is similar in colour to the thorax, the labium being of a deeper hue.

The *abdomen* is short-oval, very convex, of a mouse-colour, clothed with very short hairs. The spinners are short; the superior pair strong, and 3-jointed; the inferior pair are much smaller and consist of one joint only. A little way in front of the inferior spinners are two small transverse slits or openings, doubtless the orifices of tracheal organs.

Two of these spiders, received from Natal along with their trap-door nests, lived for some time in the Gardens of this Society; one is still living there; the other died, and its remains, from which the above description has been made, were sent to me by Mr. Arthur Thomson along with a rough sketch of the upper part of the nest, the lid of which (of the *cork* type) can just be covered with a penny-piece.

Genus Idiops, Perty.

Idiops colletti, sp. n. (Plate II. fig. 2.)

Adult female. Length $10\frac{1}{2}$ lines; length of cephalothorax $4\frac{3}{4}$ lines; breadth of cephalothorax, at widest part, $3\frac{3}{4}$.

Cephalothorax longer than broad, the fore and hinder extremities equal in breadth; thoracic indentation large, deep, curved, the convexity of the curve directed backwards; the occiput is very convex. The colour of the cephalothorax is pale yellow-brown, clothed with a few hairs, and two longish, erect, tapering bristles placed transversely just in front of the occipital convexity.

The *eyes* of the anterior pair are close to the fore margin of the cephalothorax, rather large, and largest of the eight, oval, placed obliquely and separated from each other by less than half the longest diameter; from between these two eyes spring one or two longish prominent black bristles. The four central eyes of the posterior group, which is separated from the anterior pair by nearly about double its longitudinal diameter, form a square, the foremost eyes being smallest; those of the posterior row, which are of about equal size, form a moderately curved transverse line whose convexity is directed backwards. The interval between the two central eyes of this row is distinctly greater than that which separates each from the lateral eye next to it; this latter interval is as nearly as possible equal to an eye's diameter. The ocular area forms (roughly) an equilateral triangle.

The *legs* are short, stout, 4, 1, 2, 3; those of the third and fourth pairs considerably stoutest, furnished with hairs and spines; the latter are of different lengths and strength, many being small and of a denticulate nature, and are chiefly on each side of the tibiæ, metatarsi, and tarsi of the two anterior pairs; those on the third pair are chiefly on the upperside of the genuæ, tibiæ, metatarsi, and tarsi, while on the fourth pair the spines are few and those mostly beneath the metatarsi and tarsi.

The *palpi* are similar in colour to the legs, and armed as those of the first and second pairs.

The *falces* are moderate in length and strength, of a darker hue than the cephalothorax, and armed with numerous strong short spines near the inner side of their fore extremity.

Maxillæ cylindrical and thickly covered on their anterior sides with small denticulations or spines.

Labium somewhat quadrangular, broad at the base (broader than long), narrower at the apex, where there are a few small spinous denticulations, chiefly in a transverse row close to the margin.

Sternum broadest behind, and longer than broad, incurved at its fore extremity, similar in colour to the cephalothorax.

Abdomen dull clay-colour, thinly clothed with fine hairs of different lengths. Spinners 4, those of the superior pair short, 3-jointed, but very strong; the inferior pair very small and close beneath the base of the upper ones.

Two adult females of this spider were received from General

Collett from near Meiktela, Upper Burmah, through the kindness of Mr. George King (of the Botanic Gardens at Calcutta). They are closely allied to *Idiops crassus*, Sim. (also a Burmese spider); but differ in being of a much paler hue, as well as (apparently) in the relative disposition of the eyes and armature of the legs; these in *Idiops crassus* are said to be armed with spines as in *Idiops syriacus*, Cambr., in which the smaller denticulate spines are almost wholly absent. From *Idiops syriacus* the present species also differs in being larger and of a duller hue; also the *denticulæ* on the maxillæ are confined to their inner side, and there are only two in a transverse line at the apex of the labium. The eyes also of the hind central pair in *I. syriacus* are separated by a comparatively wider interval than in *I. colletti*, being double as far apart as each is from the lateral eye on its side.

Nests of these spiders accompanied them. They are of the *cork*-lid type, and present some interesting features. I cannot perhaps do better than append the very graphic account of them given by General Collett:—

"These spiders are apparently more or less gregarious in their habitations; where one is found five or six more will perhaps be found within the radius of a yard; but a solitary nest is not at all unusual.

"The soil they inhabit is a stiff argillaceous (?) sand, quite free of stones, very hard at this time of year, though probably soft and easy for the spiders to burrow in during the rainy season.

"The surface of the ground in which the burrows are found is usually thinly covered with a scanty growth of grass, now dry and withered. Where the grass is thick the burrows are not so common, but this is possibly due to the increased difficulty of detecting them.

"All the burrows that I have seen (a hundred or more) are situated in an open grassy plain, now cleared, but recently covered with a low scrub jungle, and having a gentle slope. None have been found on banks or on steeply sloping ground.

"The upper surface of the burrow door is flush with the level of the ground, except occasionally where the superficial soil appears to have been washed away by the rain since the nest was made. It is of precisely the same appearance and colour as the adjacent ground, and the burrows are therefore extremely difficult of detection.

"I have never observed any accumulation of earth near the mouths of the burrows, though a considerable quantity must have been excavated in the construction of a hole more than half an inch in diameter and seven inches deep. Nor have I succeeded in finding any burrows in course of construction, though empty and disused burrows with displaced doors are not uncommon. It is possible that the spiders excavate only during the rainy season, when the soil is soft. At the present time no rain has fallen for three months past.

"The door, or rather lid, of the burrow is composed of grains of sand firmly agglutinated together, perhaps with some secretions from the insect; its upper surface is exactly similar in general appearance to the adjacent ground, and is often covered with the dry, black

lichen (?) growth that is common on dry soils at this time of year. As seen from above, the door is a square, with its two anterior angles rounded off, the straight side or base forming the hinge-end. But if the door is opened and viewed from below, it has a circular appearance, reminding one of a gun-wad, which is due to its white lining having been worked into a circular form to fit the mouth of the cylindrical burrow. In cross section the door is conical, like a plug, with its lower surface convex, like the bottom of a decanter-stopper. This surface is beautifully worked over with a network of fine, tough fibres, into which the spider (as I have seen) inserts its claws to keep the door closed against the entrance of an enemy. In no other part of the burrow-lining is this network of fibres to be seen. The door is always made thin at the hinge-end, and thick at the forward end, the average respective thicknesses being one sixteenth of an inch and one quarter of an inch; so that its section is wedge-like. The result of this construction is that the door will always on release after being opened fall down by its own weight, fitting with exceeding and surprising accuracy into the mouth of the burrow. So preponderating is the weight of the door at its forward end, and so instantaneously does the action of gravity cause it to fall when released after being held up, that the shutting of the door closely simulates the action of a spring, and it is very difficult at first sight to realize that no elastic force exists in the action. Thus, when a spider sitting at the mouth of its hole, with the door ajar, resting on its back, darts down its burrow when startled, the door seems to snap down with the action of a suddenly released spring; but that this is really caused by gravity anyone may convince himself by cutting the mouth of a burrow out of the ground, and noticing the action of the door and its hinge when held upside down.

"The hinge, which is beautifully flexible, is formed by a prolongation and local thickening of the lining of the burrow, which is also carried over the lower surface and round the edges of the door. The part of the lining forming the hinge is thick and tough, and of the same colour outside as the ground, but there is nothing special or mechanical in its structure as a hinge. It may be mentioned here that the lining of the tube is thinned off at the mouth of the burrow to receive the door, a distinct rim being usually observable at the commencement of the burrow proper. There are generally a few withered grass-blades worked into the edge of the door, or into the edge of the mouth of the burrow, so as to form a kind of semi-circular fringe, which often catches a practiced eye and leads to the detection of the hole. The grass-blades are probably inserted to aid in assimilating the outside of the burrow to its surroundings, a purpose in which they certainly fail, so far as the human animal is concerned. In a few cases I have also noticed grass-blades worked into the general surface of the door, and at this season, when the grass is everywhere withered, these certainly aid in its concealment; but during the rains, when the adjacent grass is green, one would think that yellow withered grass-blades on or near the burrow-mouth would tend to make it conspicuous.

"The spiders are occasionally found, even in the daytime, watching at the mouths of their holes, but they prey on insects, I suspect, chiefly at night. At least a few burrows which I marked and visited about 10 P.M. had, in nearly every instance, their tenants sitting at the mouth, with the door more or less open, apparently on the watch for unwary insects passing by. In one case the door was elevated about 60°, the others not so much. When disturbed in her watch the spider slips quickly down the hole, and the door closes after her. If the door is now attempted to be lifted by the point of a penknife, the spider will hold it down with very considerable force, and can be plainly felt struggling to prevent its forcible opening. If the spider is not at the mouth of her hole, it is easy to ascertain if she is at home by scratching the outside of the door, when, if present, she will always rush up the burrow, and try to the best of her ability to hold down the door. The doors are all constructed on the same general plan, but they vary slightly in size and thickness. The following are the mean dimensions of five doors taken at random, the measurements, as before, being given in eighths of an inch and decimal parts thereof:—

"Breadth of hinge-joint	5·12
Thickness of door at the *forward* end	2·04
Transverse diameter of door	5·12
Diameter of door from hinge to forward end	5·14

"We may thus say that an average door is a square of five eighths of an inch, and with a thickness at its forward or rounded end of a quarter of an inch. The thickness at the hinge-end is about one sixteenth of an inch, rather less if anything.

"The length of the burrow from the mouth to the bottom may be taken as seven inches. I measured the burrows accurately, the longest was $7\frac{5}{8}$ inches, and the shortest was $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches; the mean of the ten holes was $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The burrows are cylindrical, and usually nearly straight, with a slight incline from the vertical towards the side on which the hinge is placed. They are lined throughout, the lining being thicker near the mouth and at the bottom, the two places where, I suppose, the spider usually sits. The diameter of the burrow remains nearly uniform throughout, at five eighths of an inch, with a very slight enlargement at the bottom. I have never found a burrow with an elbow or decided turn in it, or with a branch. The burrow is always, so far as my experience goes, a simple and nearly straight hole."

"Pyawbwe, Upper Burmah,
"January 7, 1888."

The *planting* (as it were) of the lids of the nests with lichens, causing them to resemble most exactly the surrounding surface, is similar to that observed by the late Mr. Moggridge in respect of the *Nemesias* of the Riviera, and is indeed a very remarkable habit; the edges of the door are in the case of the present species furnished also with bits of grass resembling those growing around the nests.

The figures of the nest (Plate II. fig. 2, *e*, *f*, *g*) were drawn by Lieut. Pink, of the Queen's Regiment.

Genus Moggridgea, Cambr.

Moggridgea abrahami, sp. n. (Plate II. fig. 3.)

Adult female. Length 6½ to 7 lines; length of cephalothorax 2½ to 3 lines; breadth slightly over 1½ to slightly over 2 lines.

Cephalothorax oval, slightly truncate at its hinder extremity, more broadly truncated at its anterior margin. Thoracic indentation rather nearer the posterior than the anterior margin, well marked and deep, semicircular, the convexity of the curve directed forwards, and its posterior margin rather gibbous. Caput well defined, but not elevated. The height of the clypeus equals half that of the facial space. The colour of the cephalothorax is dull yellowish brown.

The *eyes* (looked at from above and very slightly behind) form two slightly curved transverse rows, the convexity of the curve directed forwards; looked at from above and in front the anterior row might be said to be straight. The fore central pair are separated from each other by an eye's interval; the laterals of the same row are largest of the eight, oval, oblique, and each is separated from the central eye on its side by rather more than the length of its longest diameter. The posterior row is shorter than the anterior, its lateral eyes are each removed from the fore lateral eye next to it by an eye's diameter (in one example rather less than a diameter); the hind centrals are each very near, but not quite contiguous, to the hind lateral on its side, and the two (hind lateral and central) are placed strongly obliquely and almost in a straight line with the fore-central on their side.

The *legs* are short, strong, 4, 1, 2, 3, though there is but very slight difference between 1, 2, and 3. They are of a yellowish hue, the femora and tibiæ (as also the tarsi and metatarsi of the first and second pairs) more or less suffused with blackish brown. The *tibiæ*, tarsi, and metatarsi of the first two pairs are armed on each side with a row of strong spines of different lengths. The superior pair of tarsal claws are furnished beneath with one or two small denticulations.

The *palpi* are similar to the legs in colour and armature.

The *falces* are powerful, but not remarkable in form or strength, and are similar in colour to the cephalothorax.

The *maxillæ* are subcylindric, with only a slight, obtuse, prominent point at their inner extremity; their surface on the inner side is furnished with some small, deep red-brown, spinous denticulations.

The *labium* is short, rather broader than long, its apex rounded and a little narrower than the base. The surface near the apex is furnished with denticulations similar to those on the maxillæ.

The *sternum* (with the maxillæ and labium) is of the same colour as the legs, and of an equilateral subtriangular form.

The *abdomen* is large, short-oval, very convex above, clothed with fine hairs, and of a dark purplish chocolate-brown hue; on the sides

are two large, somewhat suffused, pale yellowish patches; the underside is also paler than the upper; spinners short, superior pair 3-jointed, yellow, tinged with brown, inferior pair small, 1-jointed, and yellow.

Examples of this spider, with two of its curious trapdoor nests found in the bark of the "Kaffir Boom" tree, were kindly sent to me lately by the Rev. Nendick Abraham. It is nearly allied to, but quite distinct from, *Moggridgea dyeri*, Cambr. (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., Nov. 1875, p. 317, pl. x.).

Among other differences, it is a larger paler-coloured spider, the two rows of eyes are much closer together, and the hind lateral eyes are smaller in proportion to the hind central. The denticulations on the maxillæ and labium are much less strong, and are not found (as in *M. dyeri*) beneath the bases of the coxal joints of the first three pairs of legs. The nest resembles in general that of *M. dyeri*; it is, however, even better concealed than those of that species, there being no abnormal prominence, and often not the slightest tubular convexity of any kind apparent. In fact I had to search very minutely for ten minutes, and test every part of the pieces of bark sent to me with the point of a needle, to find out the lids of the nests. One of the nests is furnished with a lid at each end; and from a communication made by Mr. Abraham to Mr. F. Taylor, of Liverpool, I gather that this is also occasionally the case with the nests of *Moggridgea dyeri*. I came to the conclusion, from Mr. Abraham's letter to me, that this latter spider was peculiar to the "Kaffir Boom," and the present species to the Oak; but his notes on the two, sent to Mr. Taylor, lead me to suppose that each is found on both trees. The skill and perfection with which the minute lichens are placed upon the tube and its lid, causing them to resemble most exactly the rest of the bark, is indeed wonderful. Of the nests I have yet seen that of *M. dyeri* is less well concealed than those of *M. abrahami*.

Examples both of the spiders and nests of *M. dyeri* were also sent to me by Mr. Abraham, whose name I have much pleasure in connecting with the new species.

It is not easy to conjecture the purpose of the lower door. Mr. Abraham suggests that the lower door is made when the spider is young and gaining its experience, as a mode of escape from enemies which might gain access to the upper door. He has found that the lower door "is not generally (if ever) so perfect as the upper door." In the specimens before me, however, I can detect no difference between the two as regards perfection.

Family Eresidæ.

Genus Stegodyphus, Sim.

(*Eresus*, auctt. in parte.)

Stegodyphus gregarius, sp. n. (Plate II. figs. 4, 5.)

Adult female. Length $2\frac{1}{2}$–4 lines; length of cephalothorax in a

specimen of 3 lines long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lines; breadth of cephalothorax rather over 1 line.

Adult male. Length $1\frac{3}{4}$ lines.

The sexes are very dissimilar in appearance. In the *female* the cephalothorax is oblong, caput very large, hinder slope abrupt, upper surface moderately convex; the ocular area occupies at least one third of the whole length of the cephalothorax, and the height of the clypeus is scarcely equal to the length of the area of the four central eyes. The colour is yellow-brown, with a broad dark brown longitudinal band on each side. The whole is clothed with coarsish grey hairs, showing most conspicuously on the lateral margins, on the central space between the dark lateral bands, being especially long and conspicuous at the thoracic junction, and forming some white lines connecting the eyes and bisecting the area of the four central ones.

The *eyes* form a very large quadrangle, whose posterior side is the shortest and its anterior much the longest. They are small, the posterior eyes of the central group largest, the rest apparently nearly equal. Those of the central group are close together at the fore extremity of the quadrangle, but not contiguous, forming a small square or trapezoid, whose anterior side is shorter than the posterior. The interval between the eyes of these two sides respectively is greater than a diameter, while the interval between each anterior and the posterior eye next to it is less than the diameter of an anterior eye.

The *legs* are strong and of moderate length, 1, 4, 2, 3, of a yellow-brown colour; the femora, as well as the tibiæ of the first and second pairs, nearly black; in some examples the legs have a somewhat annulose appearance. They are almost entirely destitute of spines, but thickly clothed with hairs, of which many are grey, giving them a hoary look. The tibiæ of the first two pairs are rather stouter than the rest, and the metatarsi of the first pair, in old females, are of a brightish red hue, those of the second pair less so. Towards the inner side of the metatarsi of the fourth pair is a calamistrum running the whole length of the joint, but much concealed by the other hairs.

Falces strong, of moderate length, vertical, subconical, darker in colour than the cephalothorax, and clothed with grey hairs, a band across the base in front being more dense and conspicuously white. The fangs are bright red-brown, but rather weak.

The *maxillæ*, *labium*, and *sternum* are deep brown, clothed with grey hairs, and of normal form.

The *abdomen* is oval, a little broader in some examples behind than in front; its general colour is more or less bright warm yellow-brown, clothed with grey and other hairs; on the upperside are three longitudinal, more or less well-defined dark brown stripes, of which the central one is the narrowest and least conspicuous, and the lateral ones are often dentated posteriorly. The lateral margins and sides also are dark black-brown, and on the underside are two conspicuous reddish-yellow-brown patches, placed transversely and

clothed with grey hairs. The spinners are short, and in front of the ordinary ones is a transverse spinning-organ, always found correlated with the calamistrum on the fourth pair of legs.

The *male*, besides being very much smaller than the female, has the cephalothorax of a very deep black-brown hue, with a marginal stripe on each side and in front of white hairs, and a narrow longitudinal stripe of the same kind bisecting the ocular area, and a few other white hairs near the posterior eyes and on the occiput. The *legs* are longer than in the female, especially those of the first pair; they are of a bright orange-red colour, the femora and tibiæ of the first pair suffused with blackish, the tibiæ rather enlarged and thickly clothed with long black hairs; besides other hairs all the legs are furnished more or less with some white ones on their upper side. The *abdomen* is of a deep black-brown hue, with a pale yellow-brown longitudinal central tapering stripe, clothed with white hairs, and reaching a transverse bar of the same kind just above the spinners; and on the underside are two oblique, elongate pale spots or patches similarly clothed, and placed transversely near the spiracular plates. The *palpi* are short and of a black-brown hue; the radial joint is shorter than the cubital; this latter joint has a fore margin of conspicuous white hairs; digital joint rather large, and its fore extremity drawn out. The palpal organs are simple, consisting of a roundish basal bulb, with a somewhat twisted paler process at its anterior side reaching not quite to the end of the digital joint. The *sternum* is black, clothed with coarse pale grey hairs.

A nest of this spider containing numerous live individuals of both sexes, some adult, some immature, was sent a short time ago by Col. Bowker, from Durban, to Lord Walsingham, who, kindly acting on my suggestion, sent the whole to this Society's Gardens, where, as I understand from Mr. Arthur Thomson, in whose care they are placed, the whole family are in a very active and thriving state. The nest is of considerable size, and filled a box of 2 feet long by 9 inches wide and 5 deep. Above this nest I hear that the spiders have now spun lines up to the top of the case in which they have been placed, as though for the ensnaring of flies, &c.; but as their work is entirely nocturnal, no observations have yet been practicable in respect to this most interesting part of a spider's economy. They appear to devour cockroaches and crickets, tearing them to pieces in concert, and each carrying off his share of the prey, like a pack of hounds breaking up a fox.

This spider is allied to *Stegodyphus acanthophilus*, Dufour, of Southern Europe, Palestine, and Syria, but is smaller, differs greatly in colour and markings, and is, so far as I am aware, unique in its gregarious habits. Some of the examples had died during the long transit from Durban to England, and from these the descriptions have been made.